

OLIVER



GAFFNEY

February 15, 2015

Senator Carlo Leone, Co-Chairman  
Representative David Baram, Co-Chairman  
Members of the General Law Committee

**RE: SB-158, An Act Concerning Landscape Architect Licenses**

Dear Messrs. Leone and Baram,

I am writing to urge you both to oppose SB-158, An Act Concerning Landscape Architect Licenses. This bill, as introduced by State Senator Chapin, significantly weakens and undermines the licensure process by removing two critical standards necessary to protect the health, safety and welfare of the general public:

1. Technical and professional training through completion of a landscape architecture degree from a Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board (LAAB) accredited institution such as the University of Connecticut.
2. Demonstration of technical and professional competency by passing all sections of the nationally-recognized Landscape Architecture Licensing Exam (LARE) required in all 50 states.

As currently written, SB-158 does not address what the standards for practical training, relevant experience, or even a bachelors degree would entail. This ambiguity is not present in the current regulations (Sec. 20-368-8) which clearly define the educational and technical requirements needed to practice landscape architecture with reasonable care and competence. As such, it is unconscionable to revise these standards to allow underqualified or unqualified individuals to assume the title or duties of a landscape architect.

Education, experience, and examination are the core principles of licensure and demonstrate to the state that a person is minimally competent to uphold the public's interest in the practice of landscape architecture. Our current licensure standard is well-respected not only by peer professionals such as architects and engineers, but also municipal and government officials. It is essential that both groups can trust that our work will follow local, state and federal regulations and adequately protect the public health, safety and welfare in the design of public and private outdoor spaces.

I urge you to consider the implications of this bill and to strongly oppose its implementation during this week's hearing.

Respectfully,

Oliver Gaffney, Associate ASLA